

30,000, and nearly twenty-five of from 5,000 to 10,000 each. These are nearly all the towns in Canada from ocean to ocean; and not a few of them are spoken of by the people themselves as being stationary or decaying towns. The St. Lawrence Atlantic ports of Quebec and Montreal are arctic ice-bound about one-half the year.

MORE WOMEN THAN MEN.

This Statement Applies Only to Certain Sections of the World.

Statistics prove that, taking the world as a whole, the number of men and women is about equal—the best argument against polygamy—but this relationship varies greatly when individual countries are considered, says the New York Tribune. According to the last estimate of the world's population, made up from the census in single states, Norway and Scotland are the countries with the greatest relative number of women. In these countries there are to every 100 men respectively 107.5 and 107.2 women. The excess of women is also large in Sweden, there being 106.5 to every 100 men; in England, where there are 106, in Denmark with 105.1, and in Switzerland, with 105.6. The countries of the north in general show a larger population of women.

Of the lands with a more temperate climate Austria has 104.4 women to 100 men, Hungary 101.5 to 100, and France 100.7 to 100.

Further toward the south men become the more numerous. Spain, almost alone of the southern European countries, numbers more females than males, the proportion being 104 to 100. Roumania, Servia and Bulgaria are more masculine, so to speak, there being for every 100 men respectively 95.4, 94.8 and 96.5 women. In Italy the percentage is almost equal, the relationship being 99.5 to 100 in favor of the women. In the United States, say the authorities, the older states show a small excess of women and the new ones an excess of men.

There are in the Atlantic and eastern states 100.5 women to 100 men, while in some of the Pacific and western states there are only 99.8 women to 100 men. In new countries there is invariably an excess of men—a fact natural and easy of explanation.

The promised land of women is still Australia where even in the oldest colonies the stronger sex far outnumber the weaker. In Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia the relationship is respectively 99.6, 94.9 and 92.1 in favor of the men. In West Australia there are only 67 women to 100 men. In India in every place except the government of Madras the men outnumber the women.

The Sexes in France.

A French statistician says that the number of men and women in France is more nearly equal than in any other country of the world, there being only 1,007 women to 1,000 men. In Switzerland there are 1,014 men to 1,000 women, and in Greece only 933. In Hong-Kong, according to this authority, there are 266 women to 1,000 men.

INGRATITUDE OF NATIONS.

An Instance of It Toward a Hero of the Franco-German War.

A pathetic story of national ingratitude has been going the rounds of the London papers, which is interesting enough to be repeated, especially as it concerns those days of intense interest during which Paris was last in siege. Publicity has been given it by the fact that the hero of the incident has just gone into a French hospital in poverty, there to die. The Pall Mall Gazette thus tells the tale:

"When the German lines, in the autumn of 1870, were gradually closing their boa-constrictor grasp round the doomed capital, Durnof was the hero of the hour. An experienced aeronaut, who had three times been dashed into the sea and had run many other narrow escapes, he proposed with his old balloon Neptune to carry a mail out of Paris and to run the gauntlet of the beleaguering armies. At daybreak, on September 23, he set out on his adventurous journey, the director of the posts assuring him, as he handed in the dispatches and the pigeons, that his courage and devotion would meet with a splendid reward. Durnof succeeded in his task, and landed safe and sound at Evreux, but the poor old Neptune was never fit for another ascent."

"Twenty-two years elapsed, but the unhappy aeronaut never received a penny from successive governments. Even his claim for the value of his balloon, which had been used until destroyed by the military authorities, failed to obtain the slightest recognition. After a couple of decades he got the bronze medal accorded to all who carried dispatches by balloon, and last year a small monthly grant was made which barely sufficed to keep him from starvation. Swindlers and imposters of all kinds laid the foundations of future fame and fortune in the siege of Paris, but the first man who opened up communications between the imprisoned inhabitants and the outer world seems likely to die in dishonor and despair."

DISCOVERER OF TOBACCO.

A Spaniard Named Pane Used It Before Either Nicot or Raleigh.

Though Sir Walter Raleigh was the first to introduce tobacco into this country, says the London Daily News, inquiries into the history of the weed are familiar with the fact that it had already been imported into Europe long before Raleigh was born. The facts are retold in an official summary by Sir George Bonham of the recent financial statement of the Spanish minister of finance. Naturally, the subject is of interest to the controller of the national finances of Spain, as the tobacco monopoly is an important one, and brings in large sums to the state coffers. The first European who became acquainted with the plant was a Spaniard named Pane, who remained in San Domingo on Columbus' return to Spain after his second voyage. He found it used by the natives principally as a medicine. The first specimens of the plant were sent by him to Seville in 1492; but its use in Europe was mainly

due to Jean Nicot, a Frenchman of Nîmes, who was French ambassador in Portugal in 1560. Its introduction into England by Sir Walter Raleigh, who brought it from Virginia, dates from 1585.

THE SWISS REPUBLIC.

It Has an Executive Council, But No President.

Under the Swiss system, says the North American Review, the executive power is vested, not in a president, but in a council or cabinet of seven, which holds office for three years. The council apportions the departments of state among its own members, and "the members of the council have the right to speak and make proposals in either house of the federal legislature, but not to vote." When the measures proposed by the Swiss ministers are defeated in the legislature, they simply return to their desks and go on with the business of their departments, a form of procedure which has stood the test of experience. We have, therefore, a most satisfactory precedent upon the one vital point at which we must depart from the English model. The Swiss constitution, like our own, is federal; and its federal legislature consists of two chambers. The Swiss executive council or cabinet holds for three years instead of four; the Swiss ministers possess the right to sit in either house, to initiate legislation and debate, without the right to vote; and when the vote upon measures proposed by them is adverse, they remain in office until the end of their terms.

Washington's Pavements.

"Washington to-day," says a correspondent, "has more asphalt pavements than any city in the country with the exception of Buffalo. Of the 164 miles of improved streets in Washington 71 are paved with asphalt, making 1,773,037 square yards. For the streets on which heavy hauling is done cobblestone is generally used. Of this pavement 14½ miles have been laid. The heavy grades have been principally paved with granite blocks, of which 28½ miles have been laid. In the northeast section of the city the asphalt block has been found to answer the purpose very satisfactorily, and over 13 miles have been put down within recent years. There are still 25 miles of streets laid with coal tar and 11¼ of macadam."

Law of Gravitation Reversed.

A lawyer by the name of Mayne, who was a highly respected but decidedly heavy person, had risen to a judgeship, while Jeffrey Keller, who had entered on his legal career at about the same time with Mayne, but was more noted as a wit than as a lawyer, was still much in want of clients and fees. The latter was in a courtroom one day, when Mayne was solemnly presiding, and he turned to a friend, who sat beside him, and plucked at his sleeve. "See there!" he whispered: "there sits Mayne, risen by his gravity, and here sits Keller, sunk by his levity. What would Sir Isaac Newton say to that, I'd like to know?"